

## **WATER AND SEWER ADMINISTRATION**

### **Statement of Purpose**

Provide a source of clean drinking water and environmentally responsible sewage disposal in the unincorporated areas of the county.

### **Outcomes**

1. Provide for fair and equitable decisions in determining water and sewer infrastructure projects Countywide through the utilization of the Catawba County Utility Prioritization Tool in the annual water and sewer Capital Improvement Plan as submitted in the annual budget.
2. Continue to remain abreast of the water and sewer needs of the municipalities of the County to assist them in providing clean drinking water and environmentally responsible sewage disposal by facilitating meetings of the Utility Technical Advisory Committee as needed.
3. Provide for the continued economic development assistance and environmental protection that water and sewer infrastructure offers through projects such as:
  - a. The continued development of the EcoComplex and Resource Recovery Facility.
  - b. The design and construction of the Bunker Hill, Riverbend, and Oxford Schools wastewater project.
  - c. The development, design, and construction of the Southeastern Catawba County (SECC) Wastewater project.

# Water and Sewer Fund

Fund: 515

	2006/07 Actual	2007/08 Current	2008/09 Requested	2008/09 Approved	Percent Change
<b>Revenues</b>					
Charges & Fees	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,329,700	0%
From General Fund	0	0	0	3,625,000	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$4,954,700</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$48,609	0%
Supplies & Operations	0	0	0	1,069,001	0%
Future Projects	0	0	0	3,837,090	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$4,954,700</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Employees</b>					
Permanent	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0%
Hourly	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>0%</b>

## Budget Highlights

As the County continues to grow, so does the demand for clean drinking water and sewer. The County currently has over \$100 million in water and sewer projects proposed or requested by citizens and cities. To help address these needs \$1.45 million of the ¼ cent sales tax is dedicated to funding Countywide water and sewer needs. The budget also continues to dedicate 1.5 cents on the tax rate to meeting these needs.

The Local Government Commission (LGC) recently directed Catawba County to establish an Enterprise Fund for water and sewer. The eventual goal is for the fund to be self-supporting but it is acceptable to designate tax revenues until this can be achieved. As a result, the budget establishes the Water & Sewer Fund. This fund will be used to budget water and sewer operating expenses and revenues. Expenses previously budgeted in the Water & Sewer Administration cost center of the General Fund including half of a position are transferred to the new Enterprise Fund. This really only changes the manner in which the costs are accounted as they have been and will continue to be funded by water and sewer revenues, either designated property tax dollars or water line fees. It will also be used to replace the Water & Sewer Reserve Fund to bank funds for future projects and maintain the Commissioner mandated \$5 million fund balance. As funds are needed for projects they will be transferred from this fund to the Water & Sewer Construction Fund.

## Performance Measurement

### Fiscal Year 2008/09

Outcomes for Fiscal Year 2008/09 will continue to focus on the efficient management of the Water & Sewer Fund. Staff will continue to use the Priority Utilization Tool to determine which

projects to pursue and will continue to work with the Utility Technical Advisory Committee to remain abreast of water and sewer needs.

***Fiscal Year 2007/08***

At midyear, the following had been achieved:

- An 8-year Water & Sewer Plan was completed for the Fiscal Year 2008/09 budget using the Utility Prioritization Tool.
- Partnerships continued to develop with plans to award the Energy Center and Wood Waste contracts in early spring 2008.
- 30% of the Biosolids Management Facility was in the design phase, and the Research Facility and other negotiations continue.
- The Bunker Hill, Riverbend, and Oxford Schools Waste Water project were in the design phase.

***Fiscal Year 2006/07***

During Fiscal Year 2006/07, Water & Sewer staff accomplished the following:

- The Balls Creek Waste Water project was completed.
- Development, design, and construction of Bunker Hill, Riverbend, and Oxford Schools waste water project continued with the design phase.
- Development of the EcoComplex and Resource Recovery Facility continued the addition of a public/private partnership with Pallet One approved by the Board of Commissioners and the RFQ/RFP for the Bio Energy Facility issued in June 2007.